

### REMARKS

Request for reconsideration in light of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, which follow, is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 are before the Examiner. Claims 1-9 are canceled.

Acknowledgement of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority documents is noted with appreciation.

Receipt of the initialed copy of the PTO-1449 is acknowledged. The request, appearing in the paragraph numbered one, for copies (additional?) of the documents listed on the international search report is not understood. These documents are the ones listed on the initialed PTO-1449 form. Clarification is requested. If additional copies are required please advise and additional copies will be provided.

A complying abstract is attached.

The objection to the original claims is rendered moot by their cancellation.

The objections to the specification and figures are noted. A corrected specification will be provided upon an indication of allowable subject matter as will conforming drawings. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the requirement for correction.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant deems to be the invention.

The rejected claims have been canceled. The newly submitted claims have been written to address the points raised in the Official Action. Accordingly, it is felt that they should be found free of the listed objections.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0 765011. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The rejected claims have been canceled. The newly submitted claims were written to avoid the rejection.

EU Patent 0 370 380 does not suggest or teach a multiple connection strap having chambers with an opening for the temporary accommodation of an insulating-piercing connecting device in the area of a separable web, which multiple connection strip connects the tongue ends of the contact assembly on the inside. Further, the EU patent document does not suggest chamber guide means for inserting an insulation separator.

In addition, the EU document does not suggest the design of a connection strap in the contact assemblies so that a through strap, a separating strap or a switching strap are converted from through contacts to switching contacts by separating the webs into separating contacts, by inserting an insulating separator or by deformation.

Further, the EU document does not suggest the positioning of the contact locations on the side so that when a connecting plug is inserted, it touches only the edges of the contact locations.

Accordingly, the new claims are thought to be free of the teaching of the EU document and therefore should be free of the rejection as stated.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT WO 92/08255. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The rejected claims have been canceled. The newly submitted claims were written to avoid the rejection.

The PCT WO 92/08255 and US Patent 4789354 disclose a modular multiple connection strap for cable connections having a one-piece housing made of plastic and a plurality of lengthwise modularly spaced and lengthwise open chambers, into which respectively one contact assembly can be inserted. Chambers are provided on the side with parallel guide grooves, into which the longitudinal edges of two parallel, spaced apart tongues on the contact assembly can be inserted form-fittingly.

These documents also disclose a contact assembly with two parallel and spaced apart tongues with contact springs having contact locations. The longitudinal edges of the tongues are designed to form-fittingly engage into the guide grooves of the chambers on the connection strap during the insertion. These tongues are provided with insulation-piercing devices at the free ends.

Nowhere is it mentioned that the tongues are connected on the inside end with a separable web.

Accordingly, it is believed that the new claims are free of the rejection as stated.

In light of the above comments and amendments to the claims, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this  
Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Thomas G. Wiseman  
Registration No. 35,046  
VENABLE  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998  
Telephone 202-962-4800  
Telefax 202-962-8300

DC2DOCS1# 274672